

Message Text

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FOR NASA EUR REP

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM COPENHAGEN DATED JULY 2, 1976
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SUBJ: GREENLAND SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS

REF: A) COPENHAGEN 2101 DTG 241605Z JUN 76

B) COPENHAGEN 2199 DTG 021108Z JUL

SUMMARY: THE DANISH GOVERNMENT AND DANISH SCIENTISTS CONCERNED
WITH SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS IN GREENLAND HAVE BEEN UNHAPPY BE-
CAUSE OF THE TARDINESS AND FORM OF THE US PROJECT SUBMISSIONS
TO THE DANISH SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION FOR GREENLAND. NEVERTHE-
LESS, THOSE CONCERNED HAVE MADE EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS TO
OBTAIN THE REQUIRED APPROVALS WITHIN THE DANISH GOVERNMENT IN
TIME TO AVOID DELAYS IN THE PROJECTS. HOWEVER, IN ITS
APPROVING NOTE, THE DANISH GOVERNMENT MADE IT CLEAR THAT IN
THE FUTURE IT WOULD EXPECT PROJECT SUBMISSIONS TO BE MADE AT
LEAST FOUR MONTHS BEFORE THE COMMENCEMENT OF A PROJECT. THE
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EARNESTNESS OF THE DANISH AUTHORITIES WAS REITERATED IN
A FOREIGN OFFICE LETTER TO THE EMBASSY WHICH MADE A
SPECIAL POINT OF THE IMPORTANCE THE DANISH GOVERNMENT
ATTACHES TO TIMELY SUBMISSIONS. REF B). THERE IS NO DOUBT

THAT, IN PART, THIS DANISH EARNESTNESS IS RELATED TO THE DEVELOPING POLITICAL RELATION BETWEEN GREENLAND AND DENMARK. THIS TELEGRAM CONTAINS SOME PROPOSALS TO ENSURE THAT THE US CAN COMPLY IN THE FUTURE WITH DANISH DESIRES AND SOME SUGGESTIONS WITH RESPECT TO DEADLINES AND THE FORM OF PRESENTATIONS. THE DEPARTMENT IS URGED TO TAKE WHATEVER STEPS ARE FEASIBLE TO IMPROVE THE TIMELINESS AND QUALITY OF OUR SUBMISSIONS TO THE DANES ON GREENLAND SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS. END SUMMARY.

1. US PROPOSALS FOR SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS TO BE CONDUCTED ON AND AROUND GREENLAND IN THE TIME PERIOD JULY 1, 1976, TO JUNE 30, 1977, WERE TRANSMITTED TO THE DANISH FOREIGN OFFICE BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE MAY 11, 1976. BECAUSE THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE DANISH SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION FOR GREENLAND WAS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 25, 1976, THERE WAS NOT SUFFICIENT TIME FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION TO PROPERLY INFORM THEMSELVES ABOUT THE PROJECTS BEFORE THE MEETING. THE DANISH PARTICIPANTS EXPRESSED THEIR UNHAPPINESS WITH THE AMERICAN SIDE'S TARDINESS AT THE MEETING AND COMPLAINED ALSO ABOUT THE FORM IN WHICH PROJECTS WERE PRESENTED. IT WAS EVEN CLAIMED THAT SOME OF THE COPIES WERE ILLEGIBLE. THEY EXPRESSED THEIR FERVENT HOPE THAT IN THE FUTURE THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE ABLE TO DO A BETTER JOB COOPERATING WITH THE DANISH AUTHORITIES.

2. ALTHOUGH THE DANISH AUTHORITIES DID NOT MENTION IT IN THE FORMAL MEETING, THEY WERE ALSO DISAPPOINTED AT THE LONG AMERICAN DELAY IN DECIDING ON WHO WOULD PARTICIPATE FOR OUR SIDE IN THE COMMISSION MEETING TO EXPLAIN THE PROJECTS UNDER CONSIDERATION. NOT ONLY WERE THE NAMES OF THE AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS GIVEN TO THE COMMISSION VERY LATE, BUT NO ONE WAS PRESENT TO EXPLAIN SOME OF THE PROJECTS AND THE COMMISSION MEMBERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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HAD TO CONTENT THEMSELVES WITH THE PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS WHICH HAD BEEN TRANSMITTED UNDER COVER OF OUR MAY 11 NOTE.

3. THE DANISH GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO OUR NOTE OF MAY 11, 1976 WAS RECEIVED BY THE EMBASSY JUNE 24, 1976, LESS THAN A MONTH AFTER THE DANISH SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION'S MEETING IN MAY. THIS EXTRAORDINARILY RAPID RESPONSE WAS ONLY POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE DANISH GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO BE COOPERATIVE, EVEN UNDER ADVERSE CONDITIONS, IN ORDER TO OBTAIN TIMELY APPROVAL OF THE PROJECTS BY THE MANY DANISH MINISTRIES

AND OTHER ENTITIES CONCERNED SO THAT THE PROJECTS WOULD NOT BE DELAYED. IT WAS AN EXTRAORDINARY FEAT WHEN IT IS CONSIDERED THAT A SINGLE MINISTRY'S APPROVAL OF SO COMPLEX A GROUP OF PROPOSALS WOULD NORMALLY TAKE A LONGER TIME.

4. RECEIPT OF THE DANISH NOTE VERBALE APPROVING OUR REQUEST, WITH CONDITIONS, WAS FOLLOWED BY A FOREIGN OFFICE LETTER OF JUNE 29, REEMPHASIZING THE DANISH CONCERNS. THE PERTINENT PARAGRAPH FOLLOWS:

QUOTE AS STATED IN THE NOTE VERABLE, THE DANISH AUTHORITIES REQUEST THAT THE PROJECTS FOR US SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES IN GREENLAND AS A RULE BE SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL AT LEAST FOUR MONTHS BEFORE THE PROJECTS ARE SIHEDULED TO START. I KNOW THAT THE DANISH EXPERTS - IN THE MINISTRY FOR GREENLAND AND ELSEWHERE - HAVE HAD THE GREATEST DIFFICULTIES THIS YEAR IN

PROCESSING WITHIN THE TIME AVAILABLE THE MATERIAL SUBMITTED BY YOUR EMBASSY ON MAY 11, AND I SHOULD THEREFORE LIKE TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE WHICH MY MINISTRY ATTACHES TO THIS POINT.
UNQUOTE.

5. THE DANISH GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN REGARDING COMPLETE AND TIMELY SUBMISSION OF SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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GREENLAND WOULD BE UNDERSTANDABLE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. BUT THE POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES THE DANES ARE ENCOUNTERING IN MOVING GREENLAND TOWARD LIMITED HOME RULE HAVE COMPLICATED THE MATTER FURTHER. THE DANISH SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION FOR GREENLAND HAS BEEN RESTRUCTURED TO INCLUDE A GREENLANDER, WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF GREENLAND, AND ITS NEW CHAIRMAN IS DR. ISI FOIGHEL, THE PERSON CHARGED BY THE DANISH GOVERNMENT IN GUIDING THE MOVEMENT TOWARD GREATER AUTONOMY FOR THE GREENALNDERS. THE DANES ARE MAKING AN EFFORT TO SULLY INORM THE GREENLANDERS OF DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING THEIR HOMELAND AND INCLUSION OF ONE OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN THE SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION IS PART OF THIS EFFORT. MOREOVER, THE SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION MEMBERS, LED BY DR. FOIGHEL, NOW PLAN, FOR THE FIRST TIME, TO VISIT GREENLAND AND INFORM THEMSELVES ON THE SPOT REGARDING US SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS THERE BEGINNING AUGUST 5. WITH THEM, OF COURSE, WILL BE THE GREENLAND MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION.

6. RECOMMENDATION: GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES DESCRIBED ABOVE, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, OR A QUALIFIED SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATION SUCH AS THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, SET UP A FIRM SCHEDULE FOR THE PROCESS LEADING TO THE SUBMISSION OF SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS TO THE DANISH GOVERNMENT AND SERVE AS COORDINATOR IN SUCH A WAY AS TO ENSURE OUR BEING ABLE TO COMPLY WITH THE MODEST REQUESTS OF THE INCREASINGLY SENSITIVE DANISH GOVERNMENT.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE SUGGESTED FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE DEPARTMENT IN CONSTRUCTING ITS SCHEDULE:

A) A COMMON FORMAT PROVIDING FOR THE NAMES, ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF SCIENTISTS INVOLVED IN THE INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS AS WELL AS FOR PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS BE DESIGNED. THE DANES OFTEN HAVE QUESTIONS ON PROJECTS WHICH ARE MORE EASILY ANSWERED BY DIRECT INQUIRIES TO THE CONCERNED SCIENTISTS SO IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE INFORMATION ON THE SCIENTISTS BE COMPLETE AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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ACC UATES.

B) THE ORIGINAL AND COPIES OF THE PROJECT SUBMISSION OUGHT TO BE BOUND SO THAT THEY ARE AT LEAST AS ATTRACTIVE AS THE RESUME OF A PERSON SEEKING PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT; THEY OUGHT TO BE WRITABLE AND BE PRECEDED BY AN INDEX TO ALL OF THE SUBMISSIONS AND REPORTS, KEYED TO TABS, THUS MAKING IT EASY TO LOCATE A PARTICULAR PROJECT OR REPORT EASILY. SUBMISSIONS FOR THE CONTINUATION OF ONGOING PROJECTS SHOULD BE BACKED UP BY A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MONOGRAPHS ALREADY PUBLISHED ON WORK PREVIOUSLY DONE.

C) A FINAL DATE IN FEBRUARY OUGHT TO BE FIXED FOR RECEIPT OF THE PROJECT SUBMISSIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OR THE COORDINATING ENTITY. THIS DATE OUGHT TO ALLOW SUFFICIENT TIME FOR THEIR TRANSMISSION TO COPENHAGEN AND SUBMISSION TO THE DANISH GOVERNMENT BY MARCH 1. A MARCH 1 SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS THE LATEST POSSIBLE FOR PROJECTS SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE IN JULY AND WILL PERMIT CAREFUL PERUSAL OF THE PROJECTS BY MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION FOR GREENLAND BEFORE THE ANNUAL MAY MEETING. IT WILL ALSO COMPLY WITH THE DANISH REQUIREMENT FOR PRESENTATION FOUR MONTHS IN ADVANCE OF THE SCHEDULED START OF A PROJECT.

D) A METHOD OF DETERMINING WHO WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAN SIDE MUST BE FOUND SO THAT THE DANES MAY BE

ADVISED OF THEIR NAMES AT LEAST A MONTH BEFORE THE MEETING. STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT EVERY PROJECT PROPOSAL IS DESCRIBED AT THE MEETING BY AN ATTENDING SCIENTIST WHO IS QUALIFIED AND KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT IT. PARTICIPANTS SHOULD ARRIVE IN COPENHAGEN IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING SO THAT AT LEAST TWO WORKING DAYS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATION WITH DANISH COUNTERPARTS AND FOR COORDINATION OF THE AMERICAN SIDE'S PRESENTATION. THE LEADER OF THE DELEGATION MUST BE OF SUFFICIENT SCIENTIFIC OR PERSONAL REPUTE TO SHOW THE DANES THAT WE ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO THESE MATTERS. THE INCREASED SIGNIFICANCE PLACED BY THE DANES ON THE COMMISSION MAKES TIMELY ADVICE TO THEM OF THE NAMES OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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THE PARTICIPANTS MORE THAN A SIMPLE COURTESY (ABOUT WHICH WE HAVE BEEN LAX); IT MAKES IT IMPORTANT THAT THE LEADER OF THE DELEGATION BE A PERSON OF STATURE IN THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY CONCERNED WITH RESEARCH IN GREENLAND.

E) REPORTS ON SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED WITH THE APPROVAL AND COOPERATION OF THE DANISH AUTHORITIES SHOULD, OF COURSE, BE PRESENTED TO THE DANES AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, SUBMISSION OF REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL OF NEW PROJECTS SHOULD NOT BE DELAYED BECAUSE OF OR MADE DEPENDENT IN ANY WAY ON THE AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS ON INVESTIGATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT. THE DANES WANT THE REPORTS AND WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE THEM. BUT THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT THAT THESE REPORTS BE PRESENTED SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH, OR BEFORE, REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL OF NEW PROJECTS.

7. COMMENT: THERE IS NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT THE DANES WERE DISSATISFIED WITH THE WAY WE PRESENTED OUR SUBMISSIONS ON SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS IN GREENLAND LAST MAY. THEY ARE TRYING TO OPEN THE DOOR TO THE GREENLANDERS HERE, TOO, AND OUR TARDINESS DID NOT MAKE IT EASY FOR THEM TO DO SO. THE LETTER FROM THE FOREIGN OFFICE, FOLLOWING UP ON THE OMNIBUS NOTE OF JUNE 24, CLEARLY SHOWS THIS. I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE CONFORM TO THE SCHEDULE SET OUT BY THE DANES (WHICH OUR SUGGESTIONS ARE DESIGNED TO IMPLEMENT) AND STRONGLY URGE THAT THE DEPARTMENT UNDERTAKE WHATEVER STEPS ARE FEASIBLE TO MAKE THIS POSSIBLE.

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UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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